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**CONGRATULATIONS  
2023 FISHING CHALLENGE  
MASTERS!**

**12 & UNDER**

Bass	17.5"	Mack Morris
Crappie	8.5"	Joey Fehn
Dogfish	26.5"	Lucas Thompson
Northern Pike	31"	Lucas Thompson
Sunfish	9.5"	Aubrey Fehn
Walleye	16.75"	Joey Fehn

**13 & OVER**

Bass	18.5"	Adam Campbell Nikki Fehn
Dogfish	30"	Heather Tichy
Muskie	39.5"	Alex Timmers
Northern Pike	33"	Nathan Brown
Sunfish	9.5"	Katie Kramer

## Environmental Stewardship Fund

**Heather Rykhus**

At the annual meeting on June 24 the Environmental Stewardship Fund (ESF) was introduced. Its intention is to broaden the use of donations for purposes aligned with the CLC's mission. Examples include:

- Augment the acquisition and protection of parcels of sensitive shoreline where conservation programs may be appropriate in conjunction with landowners and organizations like the DNR, State of MN, Northern Waters Land Trust and the MN Land Trust (Tuthill property acquisition where the CLC combined member donations with State funds to acquire and deed 46 acres with 1600' of shoreline to the DNR for permanent protection).
- Provide education and guidance to landowners on shoreline care for not only AIS but terrestrial invasive/non-native plants (buckthorn, reed canary grass, loosestrife) and other pollution or contamination affecting shoreline and the lake.
- Supplement existing AIS funds as necessary and/or employ new shoreline measures.

The AIS fund has grown and been utilized to educate, identify, prevent and eradicate AIS as they emerge. These dedicated dollars continue to be used only for that purpose. Over time the fund will be depleted.

In 2024 our tiered membership approach will allow members to contribute to the ESF. No one can predict what emergent issues may be in Cedar's future. Being prepared with the flexibility to deal with these unknown issues is wise.

Donations in 2024 beyond membership fees will be added to this new, broader Environmental Stewardship Fund, and a new savings account will be established for this fund's directed monies.

### Who We Are

The Cedar Log is published by the Cedar Lake Conservancy. The Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting, preserving and enhancing the quality of the environment in and around Cedar Lake.



### Get In Touch

[cedarlakeaitkin@gmail.com](mailto:cedarlakeaitkin@gmail.com)  
[cedarlakeconservancy.org/](https://cedarlakeconservancy.org/)  
[facebook.com/cedarlakeconservancy](https://facebook.com/cedarlakeconservancy)  
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[markm.hirsh@gmail.com](mailto:markm.hirsh@gmail.com)  
763-486-7985  
Bob Karls, Vice President  
[bkarls58@gmail.com](mailto:bkarls58@gmail.com)  
612-850-3811  
Dan Yentes, Secretary/Treasurer  
[danyentes@gmail.com](mailto:danyentes@gmail.com)  
651-216-9161

Debbie Campbell, Director <a href="mailto:jackpine@aol.com">jackpine@aol.com</a> 952-240-3772	Bob Hakes, Director <a href="mailto:bobhakes14@gmail.com">bobhakes14@gmail.com</a> 612-685-2816
Jon Campbell, Director <a href="mailto:campbelljon807@gmail.com">campbelljon807@gmail.com</a> 612-849-3232	Kelsey Klucas, Director <a href="mailto:kelseyklucas@gmail.com">kelseyklucas@gmail.com</a> 218-839-0992
Steve Haasl, Director <a href="mailto:stevenhaasl1@gmail.com">stevenhaasl1@gmail.com</a> 612-386-4352	Heather Rykhus, Director <a href="mailto:rykhufam@comcast.net">rykhufam@comcast.net</a> 612-280-4335
Communications Chair	Debbie Campbell <a href="mailto:jackpine@aol.com">jackpine@aol.com</a>
Database	Dan Yentes <a href="mailto:dyentes@gmail.com">dyentes@gmail.com</a>
Facebook-Private	Lanae Paaverud <a href="mailto:lpaaeverud@gmail.com">lpaaeverud@gmail.com</a>
Facebook-Public	Dar Heino <a href="mailto:live4678@aol.com">live4678@aol.com</a>
Website	Lanae & Yoerg Paaverud <a href="mailto:lpaaeverud@gmail.com">lpaaeverud@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:ypaaverud@gmail.com">ypaaverud@gmail.com</a>
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Water Clarity	Jon Campbell <a href="mailto:campbelljon807@gmail.com">campbelljon807@gmail.com</a>
Water Level	Bruce Bogema <a href="mailto:bogy@usfamily.net">bogy@usfamily.net</a>
Loon Restoration Project	John Kohner <a href="mailto:kohnerj@gmail.com">kohnerj@gmail.com</a>
Loon Watch Chair	Frank Simon <a href="mailto:frank@optimum-ts.com">frank@optimum-ts.com</a>
Membership Chair	Heather Rykhus <a href="mailto:rykhufam@comcast.net">rykhufam@comcast.net</a>
Road Cleanup Chair	Mary Braton <a href="mailto:marybraton@yahoo.com">marybraton@yahoo.com</a>
Social CoChairs	Steve Haasl <a href="mailto:stevenhaasl1@gmail.com">stevenhaasl1@gmail.com</a> John McIntosh <a href="mailto:john@mcintoshlaw.net">john@mcintoshlaw.net</a>

**THE PRESIDENT'S MUSINGS**  
**Mark Miller**

As I am writing this, I am seeing more fall color than usual brought on by our drought conditions. Only a few months ago I was frustrated with 2' of snow in the woods making it too difficult to carry sap out of the woods to make maple syrup. A few weeks later the lake level was the highest I have seen in the 30+ years we have owned our lake property. By mid-summer it was one of the lowest, and the air was filled with smoke from Canadian fires. An unusual year to say the least.

Fortunately, I can report we had a great turnout for the CLC annual meeting and nearly 60 members attending the annual picnic. We had 15 decorated boats in the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade despite the cold, rainy day. Thank you to our picnic host, Trudy Anderson, and to all the volunteers that made these events happen.

What has made the CLC as successful as it has been for 30 years now, are the hours rendered by Board members, committee chairs and multitudes of volunteers. I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to them all. But just as important, I want to express our appreciation for the financial donors that have enabled us to build a reserve of approximately \$100K dedicated to combat AIS. The AIS fund is being accessed to minimize, if not eliminate, the Curly-leaf Pondweed discovered in three locations in Cedar Lake (learn more about this AIS in the Conservation article). The continuing participation of members contributing to support efforts to control the spread of AIS is critical to our ability to protect and preserve the water quality of Cedar Lake for decades to come. THANK YOU, donors!

**2024**  
**Annual Meeting**  
**June 22**

**Have you seen the new loon nesting site sign posted by the DNR on the kiosk at the public landing?**



## CONSERVATION

**Bob Karls**

**Kelsey Klucas**

Another fall, another summer on the lake behind us. We hope you all enjoyed the warm days and refreshing dips in the lake along with many new memories.

You may have recently read our CLC news that Curly-leaf Pondweed was discovered in the lake by our hired aquatic invasive species professional, Freshwater Science, during their investigation this summer. While this is upsetting to hear, we are encouraged we have caught the infestation early, and we have a response planned in the spring. Between the early detection and strategy to respond, we are confident we will be able to manage this infestation without impairing our enjoyment of the lake. Of course, this early detection success story would not have happened without the funds to hire a professional inspector. Due to all of your dedication and financial support, we were able to use our AIS funds to be proactive and can respond with a treatment plan. Given the wide array of routes AIS can enter our lake, having this capacity to act is what will continue to allow Cedar Lake to remain healthy and vibrant.

That said, as the adage goes (one that you hear from us repeatedly), an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. With that in mind, we also want to remind folks of the many different efforts that we are driving each year to help us catch any AIS as early as possible and to prevent contamination as best we can.

There are many routes of education available to members to help provide the knowledge needed to prevent the infestation and facilitate the identification of AIS. One opportunity provided this year was training by our AIS professional at the public landing in August. This training provided in-depth and hands-on training for how to identify AIS. We also learned about resources from the University of Minnesota that provide similar information. If you are interested in viewing these resources, they are available at <https://maisrc.umn.edu/>

Each year we request resources from Aitkin County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to provide AIS monitoring at our public access. The generous resources from this agency provides Cedar Lake with needed support for preventing the spread of AIS and providing a last line of defense before an infected boat is introduced to our lake. The inspector at our public access is there from approximately mid-May through Labor Day on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Our dedicated team of Shore Land Stewards are an incredible resource to our lake. We have over 20 individuals who have volunteered their time and effort to help inspect and protect our lake throughout the year. Few lakes are so lucky to have such a dedicated group. If you know somebody who is part of this team, make sure to say thank you! Also, if you are interested in becoming one yourself, please contact Joe Klucas at [joe.klucas1024@gmail.com](mailto:joe.klucas1024@gmail.com).

As mentioned above, this year we have engaged with Freshwater Science to provide us with inspections and support in identifying AIS on our lake. They have a robust inspection process that has already helped us identify and plan for the remediation of one species. We are hopeful that regular, proactive inspections will allow us to catch future potential infestations early as well and are encouraged our AIS funds have allowed us to protect Cedar Lake.

Last, and most important, are all of you! The eyes and ears across the lake are our best line of defense for invasive species. It is through our CLC members that we identified zebra mussels and continue to track their spread. We capture and act on this information as appropriate and are so thankful to have everyone's efforts and support in protecting our lake.... thank you. And with that, we hope that you all are enjoying the remainder of our warm weather and have had another wonderful lake season for the memory books.

## MEMBERSHIP

Heather Rykhus

It is not too late to pay dues for this year! As of this writing, we have 201 paid members. If you are reading this and haven't joined or renewed, please take a moment to do so either by mailing your check and membership form to the CLC or using the PayPal option. Both are on the last page of the newsletter. They are also available on the CLC website at [cedarlakeconservancy.org](http://cedarlakeconservancy.org)

Special thanks to Judy Patterson for continually working behind the scene in growing the CLC membership. Your efforts are so appreciated.

## WATER CLARITY

Jon Campbell

When the University of Minnesota launched the Volunteer Water Monitoring Program in 1973, it would become the second oldest, and still active, water monitoring program in the nation (Maine beat us by two years). This program transferred to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency in 1978 and has been, by all measures, a roaring success—empowering residents of the State and giving everyone a greater understanding of the health of our State's waters.

Once the our data for this year has been analyzed, we'll share the results. Look for them next year.

Thank you to all the volunteers who dedicated their time monitoring Cedar Lake. Deepest gratitude to Herb Schoon, who is hanging up his Secchi disc after many years of readings. Herb's efforts were greatly appreciated and will be missed.

## SOCIAL

Steve Haasl

John McIntosh

Well, gang, the season is changing. Summer was hot and is stretching into October. Our summer activities almost came off without a hitch; that pesky bit of rain (ironic given the drought) on July 4<sup>th</sup> tried to dampen our enthusiasm but a plucky group of 15 boats pressed on regardless, led by our new president, Mark Miller.

Speaking of new, John McIntosh has graciously volunteered to join the Social Committee, filling the void left by Mark Miller's ascension to the presidency. Mark has been active in the organization and promotion of our social events. His efforts will be missed. John has been a host of two previous picnics and an active member for many years. We're lucky to have him.

Looking back at 2023, the annual meeting was a well attended, informative and highly social event. The spring roadside cleanup was quickly done by an enthusiastic and engaged group of volunteers. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July boat parade was mostly undaunted by the spitting rain toward the end. And the annual picnic, hosted by the very gracious, helpful Trudy Anderson. Thank you, Trudy! Special thanks to the team of Trudy and Heather Rykus for their morning goose poop patrol—we owe you. The picnic was catered by the Deerstand with leftovers eagerly shared among the guests. It was a sunny success.

2024 looks to repeat many of our favorite events but as always, we're open to suggestions for improving and responding to our members. Please feel free to share any ideas, suggestions, praise or pans with the Social Committee. And, if you'd like to be a part of the Committee, let us know. New ideas and energy are always welcome.

**KEEP CALM  
AND WATCH THE  
LEAVES  
FALL**



## LOON WATCH

Frank Simon

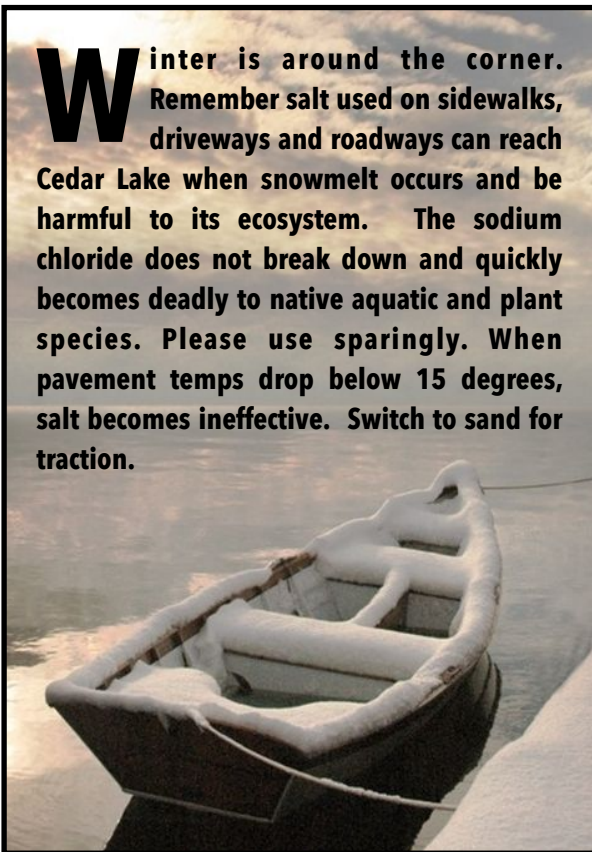
Another year on the books. We did our first count on May 23rd, counted 21 loons and found four active nests. The next count was June 23. We spotted 26 adult loons, one loon chick and two active nests. July 12th we found 35 adult loons and one chick. Our last count was August 10. We found 30 adults and two chicks. The oldest chick was almost mature, he no longer stayed with his parents and appeared very self-efficient. The second chick was still quite small and dependent on his parents.

Although the nesting season started out strong with higher water levels, the drop in the lake level could have made it difficult for the loons to return to the nest and made it easier for predators.

The biggest threat to loons is human disturbance; Federal/State laws prohibit harassment of loons. Boat strikes are deadly. Always remember the danger that following, chasing or just getting too close to loons can cause.

Many thanks to Heather and Bob Rykhus and John Kohner for helping with the counts.

**W**inter is around the corner. Remember salt used on sidewalks, driveways and roadways can reach Cedar Lake when snowmelt occurs and be harmful to its ecosystem. The sodium chloride does not break down and quickly becomes deadly to native aquatic and plant species. Please use sparingly. When pavement temps drop below 15 degrees, salt becomes ineffective. Switch to sand for traction.



## AITKIN AREA FISHERIES

Greg Berg, Assistant Fisheries Supervisor

Our plan this fall remains the same to stock 405 pounds of Mississippi strain Walleye fingerlings and 405 individual Leech Lake strain Muskellunge fingerlings.

2024 is a survey year so we will have a complete update of all of the fish species in the lake including Muskie and Largemouth Bass. We are always curious to know if Smallmouth Bass or Channel Catfish are being found in the lake given it's connection to the Mississippi. I do know that anglers are aware of the trophy Walleye that inhabit the lake and advances in electronics are helping people target and catch those fish. This is happening in other lakes, too, and I'm interested to know how many of those big fish are being kept.

## RUSTY CRAYFISH

At the September ACLARA meeting, Rick Bruesewitz, Aitkin Area Fisheries Manager, was the featured speaker. Part of his presentation included information on the rusty crayfish, a regulated invasive species in Minnesota found in some Aitkin County lakes this year. They are easily identified by the rusty spot on each side. Frequently, they have black tips to their claws. The definition of regulated invasive species from the MN DNR is "Species are legal to buy, sell, transport and possess but may not be introduced into a free-living state, such as release into public waters." As with most crayfish, these, too, are edible! More information can be found at:

<https://extension.umn.edu/identify-invasive-species/rusty-crayfish>



## THANK YOU MEMBERS, DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS!

Members and Donors as of October 1, 2023. Volunteers marked with an asterisk in Membership Levels.

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 Mark & Sandra Anderson  
 Jon & Julie Apold  
 Joan Autrey & Frank Parisi\*  
 Randy & Jackie Bilderback\*  
 Steve & Beth Birke  
 Jeff & Melanie Boyd  
 Glenn & Tammy Browning  
 Jim & Debbie Campbell\*  
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 Adam Campbell and Courtney Hollihan  
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### HERON: Dues Plus \$50 Donation

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 Tami Corder  
 Kailey Corder  
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 Mark & Jill Schmidt

### OTHER DONATIONS

Jon Ebel

### VOLUNTEERS

Bruce Bogema  
 Les & Marty Martin  
 Dale & Deanna Moselle  
 Dave Wieber

### LOON: Dues Plus \$25 AIS Donation

Mimi Amelang & Ken Grina  
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 Steven & Ann Vatne  
 Lowell & Elaine Wegner  
 Nancy & Steven Wilkowski  
 Kevin Zasmeta  
 Linda & Mark Zasmeta  
 Matt Zasmeta  
 David & Tammy Zieglmeier





**September 30  
County Road 28 Roadside Clean Up**

LtoR: Jackie Bilderback, Kathy Asplin, Dennis Nielsen, Kelsey Klucas, Jerry Braton, Debbie Campbell, Randy Bilderback, Heather Rykhus, Mark Miller, Deanna Moselle, Dale Moselle, Jim Campbell. Not in picture, Mary Braton. Thanks, Mary, for always organizing!

**CLC THROUGH THE YEARS  
2013 - 2022**

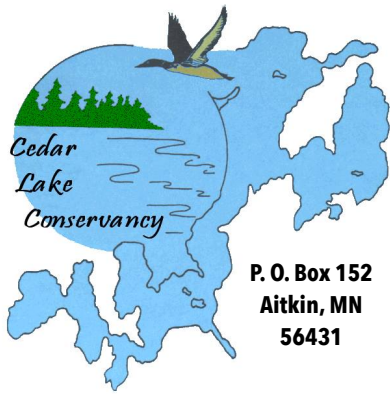
**Highlights**

- 2013 Dues were \$20. Channel catfish were found in the Mississippi and DNR alerted property owners they could find their way into the lake. A public Facebook page was created. There were 112 paid members.
- 2014 Dues were \$20. Watercraft inspections for AIS start at the public access. Water quality not good due to rains. Paid membership was 137.
- 2015 Dues increased to \$25. A new website was created. There were 142 paid members.
- 2016 No-wake restrictions were implement by the Aitkin Commissioners due to record rains. The CLC online store debuted. There were 120 members.
- 2017 Various AIS quickly spread to lakes around Cedar and preventing them from coming to AIS was the focus of the organization. Paid membership was 180.
- 2018 AIS continues to be the focus and a campaign for donations to was in full force. There were 186 paid members.
- 2019 Covid...no annual meeting or picnic. There were 192 paid members.
- 2020 Again due to Covid, no annual meeting was held. The Tuthill property became part of the Cedar Lake Wildlife Management Area. A private Facebook page was developed. A moose was spotted on the south end of the lake. Paid membership was 201.
- 2021 A new website was created with the ability to pay dues online. Zebra mussels were discovered. The annual meeting resumed in September. There were 234 paid members.
- 2022 CLC enrolled in the MN DNR's Loon Friendly Lake Registry. The MPCA introduced, and the CLC promoted, the Get the Lead Out Program. Small mouth bass were confirmed in the lake. Paid membership was 229.

**ICE IS NEVER 100% SAFE! Recommended Minimum Ice Thickness**  
*(Guidelines for New, Clear Ice Only)*

<b>&lt;4"</b> Keep off	<b>4"</b> On foot	<b>5-7"</b> Snowmobile	<b>7-8"</b> Side-by-side ATV	<b>9-12"</b> Car	<b>13-17"</b> Truck	<b>20+"</b> Heavy duty truck with wheelhouse shelter
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**m** DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



**P. O. Box 152  
Aitkin, MN  
56431**



**JOIN/RENEW TODAY!**

<b>Basic</b>	<b>\$ 25</b>	<b>\$25 dues</b>
<b>Loon</b>	<b>\$ 50</b>	<b>\$25 dues plus \$25 tax-deductible donation to AIS Fund</b>
<b>Heron</b>	<b>\$ 75</b>	<b>\$25 dues plus \$50 tax-deductible donation to AIS Fund</b>
<b>Eagle</b>	<b>\$100</b>	<b>\$25 dues plus \$75 tax-deductible donation to AIS Fund</b>

Your check and this form should be mailed to Cedar Lake Conservancy, P. O. Box 152, Aitkin, MN 56431.

Click here to pay online: <https://cedarlakeconservancy.org/membership/#payonline>

Name(s)

Mailing Address

Lake Address

Preferred Telephone Number to Reach You

Email Address - please print clearly

I/We are the property owners  Yes  No

I/We are making an additional, tax-deductible donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the CLC Aquatic Invasive Species Fund.